



THE COAST GUARD RESERVIST

CG-288

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION • UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

Vol. XXI, No. 9

WASHINGTON, DC

June, 1974



THE ADMIRAL'S CORNER

In the December RESERVIST, I addressed the necessity and desirability of maintaining an adequate balance between augmentation training and other types of Reserve training.

Augmentation training, which is providing invaluable experience to reservists in Regular Coast Guard missions, as well as assistance to the Regular Service, has leveled off at about 65%, or roughly two-thirds of normally available Reserve time. I consider this to be a satisfactory level. We must now concentrate on holding at approximately this general level and making augmentation training as effective and meaningful as we possibly can.

At the same time, we must place increased emphasis on other training controlled by the Reserve unit and group. Despite the high value of augmentation, it is but one type of training. The effective and meaningful use of the remaining portion of the available Reserve time is mandatory to provide the balance so important to our overall training program.

This remaining one-third of available Reserve time consists of three parts: active duty for training school assignments which require the scheduling of 25% of unit personnel each year; unit administrative activities; and unit or group training which should supplement or complement augmentation training. This last part must not be short changed.

Experience is certainly a good teacher but it often needs to be fortified with sound theoretical knowledge. There are some subjects that can be more effectively learned if they are first taught in a classroom environment and then experienced practically during augmentation. For example, it is difficult if not dangerous for a boat coxswain to teach rules of the road underway. Conversely, it is difficult to apply these rules in a classroom. Fire service hydraulics cannot be taught at a pier fire - but the value of that knowledge can certainly be appreciated when fighting a fire. In the coming months, there will be considerable emphasis on planning and developing rate training and other forms of readiness training, including mobilization exercises, at the unit and/or group level.

One form that is now being developed at Headquarters is our audio-visual library. The first of these cassettes on radio telephone procedure has already been distributed. Twenty-four more are in varying stages of production or planning. As these become available within the next few months, they will be a real asset to unit training. A number of Regular units have seen the first cassette presentation and have expressed interest in the use of these for joint Regular-Reserve training sessions. While these presentations will help fill some areas of training needs, they do not fill other important needs that must be met.

See "Admiral's Corner," pg. 2

Admiral SILER Becomes Commandant



Secretary BRINEGAR administers oath

Admiral Owen Wesley SILER became the 12th Commandant of the Coast Guard in ceremonies in Washington, DC, on 31 May 1974. He relieved ADM Chester R. BENDER, Commandant for the past four years, who retired.

Prior to his selection, ADM SILER commanded the Second District, headquartered in St. Louis, MO.

At the same ceremony, retiring Commandant, Admiral Chester R. BENDER, was presented with the Distinguished Service Medal for his leadership of the Coast Guard during his tenure.

The award, highest U.S. peacetime military decoration, was presented to Admiral Bender for President Nixon by Secretary of Transportation Claude S. Brinegar.

"Through his dynamic leadership, exceptional administrative skill and judicious planning ability," the President wrote, "ADM BENDER has been eminently successful in the accomplishment of his exacting duties in a difficult period of our history."

The award was ADM BENDER's second Distinguished Service Medal. Former Transportation Secretary John A. Volpe presented him with the first award at the time he left the Department to be Ambassador to Italy.

One area of concern involves the training of our direct enlistment petty officers, particularly the young women who enlisted in yeoman and store-keeper ratings within the past 18-24 months. These women were given provisional status to indicate their need for further Coast Guard training (in addition to their civilian skills) in order to attain permanent status. The additional knowledge necessary for this cannot be gained solely through concentration on Reserve unit paperwork. Additional effort is needed.

This additional effort is a two-fold responsibility. A current directive charges each provisional petty officer with the completion of certain requirements in preparation for examination for permanent petty officer status. By implication, Reserve group commanders, and commanding officers of Reserve units share the responsibility to insure these qualifying requirements are fulfilled.

One manner in which this can be accomplished is by reserving a portion of drill time for instruction in the YN and SK (and other) specialties. Correspondence courses cannot be worked on or completed during drills. However the applicable correspondence course texts are ideal curriculums for instruction at the unit or group. The FITS system is also available and is very useful in many ratings. Instruction periods of this type should be started without delay if they are not already underway. The penalty for failure to do so may be the loss of talented reservists from the Selected Reserve.

Every member of the Coast Guard Reserve is entitled to receive the best possible mix of theoretical and practical training that we can offer. Anything less than this is inadequate to insure that our personnel are ready to perform the duties that would be required of their rating if mobilization were to occur. Each Reserve group commander and Reserve unit commanding officer should take a broad look at the training being accomplished during drills - theoretical training as well as augmentation training - and take action as necessary to make sure that a proper balance is being maintained.

J. E. Johansen
J. E. JOHANSEN

RP and RK Programs Opened to Women

The Commandant has recently approved the enlistment of women in two of the Coast Guard Reserve's non-prior service programs: RP and RK.

The RP program is the 5 to 11 month initial ACDUTRA program which has been in existence for several years. It requires completion of recruit training followed by attendance at a Class "A" School and on the job training for a number of months, according to the rating entered.

The RK program, announced in the last issue of the RESERVIST, permits completion of recruit training between school semesters and performance of the remainder of the initial ACDUTRA period following the next year of school.

All women enlisting in these two programs will complete recruit training at Cape May, N.J. Ratings available after training is completed will be BM, PS, MK, RM and SS. Women reservists will not be assigned to ship-board training.

SGLI Coverage Expanded

The Veteran's Insurance Act of 1974 has provided for several major changes to the Servicemen's Group Life Insurance Program.

First, SGLI will be increased from its present limit of \$15,000 to \$20,000 coverage.

Second, reservists assigned to units scheduling at least 12 drills per year will be given full SGLI coverage. Previously, they were covered only by SGLI while performing duty, but now coverage will be extended to full-time coverage (to include protection when in a civilian status) at full-time rates. Reservists performing less than these drills would continue to be covered in the present manner.

The premiums for this new increased coverage will be approximately \$3.40 per month - with the same rate applicable to Regulars and reservists alike. Reservists may elect not to participate in SGLI, or to receive reduced coverage, in which case the premium will be approximately \$0.85 per month per \$5,000 of insurance.

The Veterans Administration, managers of the program, anticipate 99 percent of all eligible personnel will accept the full coverage of the plan.

The third aspect of the new insurance program pertains to the Retired Reserve. Members of the Retired Reserve, who have not yet begun to receive retired pay, will be eligible to participate in the SGLI program, until such time as they begin to receive retired pay, unless they elect to enroll in an individual policy. Premiums for SGLI coverage of the Retired

Full Time Reserve Coverage

Reserve will be higher.

For members of the Retired Reserve, coverage is expected to be about \$8.00 per month for \$20,000 coverage. This higher rate is due to the greater age of the Retired Reserve members.

Fourth, a new program titled Veteran's Group Life Insurance has been established to provide a five-year, non-renewable insurance program for veterans leaving the service. The VGLI will extend the period a veteran has to convert to an individual policy from 120 days following date of separation to five years. Premiums for VGLI will be set by the VA according to age of the participant, etc. - in a manner similar to that of any insurance company.

As this issue of the Reservist goes to press, some details of the new system have not yet been resolved, notably the manner in which premiums will be collected and accounted for for members of the Retired Reserve and participating reservists (such as members of VTUs) who do not receive pay.

This change to the SGLI program is a very significant incentive for Reserve participation. It not only provides full-time protection to drilling reservists, but it fills a real gap for retired reservists. Until passage of this law, the family of a retired reservist who died after establishing eligibility but before beginning to collect retired pay received no benefits at all. Now, that retiree can provide family protection between the time of being placed on the retired list and the date when he begins to receive retired pay.

DOD Domestic Action Awards Presented



Five Coast Guard Reserve units have been honored by the Department of Defense in recognition of their continuing efforts to support community projects and domestic action.

The awards were made during ceremonies held at the Pentagon on 29 May, during which plaques were presented to the outstanding units of the seven Reserve components by Assistant Secretary of Defense William P. Clements. Certificates were presented to other units whose activities were considered exceptionally noteworthy.

An award plaque was presented to

"JAX" Reservists

Three Coast Guard Reservists in the Seventh District provided valuable assistance to fire department personnel during a Jacksonville (FLA) waterfront pier fire on Saturday, 9 March 1974.

PS1 John A. VACCARO, MK2 Burt W. HAGEN and PS3 Stephen WELSH received letters of appreciation from the commanding officer of Coast Guard MIO/COTP Jacksonville for their efforts in helping combat a fire on the abandoned Seaboard Coast Line pier.

The three Reservists, upon securing from their afternoon patrol, proceeded to the flaming pier in CG31017. After dispersing several small boats in the vicinity, they boarded the pier to assist the firemen. Despite heavy creosote smoke, they ripped up planking and handled hose lines on the face of the pier which had been cut off from shore. When more help arrived, the boat crew conducted an on-scene repair of the inoperable P-250 pump and directed the boat's monitor into the flames. The Reserve boat served as a communications platform for the on-scene coordinator and was used to ferry personnel to the pier.

In his letter of appreciation, Capt. Edgar W. DORR commended their dedication. "During the three

Coast Guard Reserve Group St. Louis II, St. Louis Missouri, for the outstanding efforts of its three component units - CGRU St. Louis I and II, and CGRU Peoria, Illinois - during the disastrous flooding on the Mississippi last year. The three Reserve Units of the Group received individual certificates for their efforts.

A certificate was also presented to CG Volunteer Training Unit Denver for its efforts in developing emergency preparedness plans.

CDR R.D. COLEMAN, USCGR, Group Com-

Battle Pier Fire

hours spent fighting the fire, these men never took a break; they pushed themselves and their equipment to maximum efficiency.

"I want to express my sincere appreciation for the timely, effective assistance provided by PS1 VACCARO, MK2 HAGEN, and PS3 WELSH. The initiative and ability displayed was outstanding and reflects extremely well on them and the Coast Guard Reserve."

17th's Records Moved

The personnel records of all reservists residing in the Seventeenth Coast Guard District will soon be administered by the Thirteenth CG District. This move will eliminate the burden on the 17th District's personnel office, and provide more experienced record management.

There are no Selected Reserve units in Alaska, although a few individuals do drill with interservice units.

Any reservist residing, or planning to reside in Alaska should address any inquiries concerning his Reserve service to the Commander, Thirteenth Coast Guard District, 618 Second Ave., Seattle, WA 98104.

mander, accepted the awards for his units which provided 810 man-days of emergency active duty and additional time on a voluntary basis during the flooding. The reservists manned 18 flood relief punts, conducting over 1400 sorties and evacuated over 200 persons. In addition, the reservists transported tons of supplies, plus about 2500 persons, including National Guardsmen, utility servicemen, etc. They also conducted anti-looting patrols. In all, a total of 134 reservists was involved in the flood relief operations.

CDR E.L. LAIDIG, USCGR, the VTU commanding officer, accepted his unit's award which developed disaster contingency plans for 19 health care facilities in Jefferson County, Colorado. The Regional Civil Preparedness Agency had developed the groundwork for the plans, however, the managers of the individual facilities lacked the planning experience to develop specific plans for their locations. For each location, the reservists developed the specific plans needed to cope with natural and man-made disasters. For their efforts, the VTU also received a Distinguished Service citation from the Sixth Regional Civil Preparedness Office.

WELL DONE!!! to the hard working reservists of the Second District.

Racine Reservists Evacuate Threatened Area



Seventeen members of CGRU Racine, WI, assisted local authorities in evacuating residents of a 16 square-block area threatened by a chlorine gas leak.

The gas - which is both corrosive and highly toxic - began escaping from the Racine sewage treatment plant. The reservists were drilling nearby and immediately began assisting local authorities in alerting the residents.

Although the leak was secured in an hour and a half, 32 persons were hospitalized, and 17 policemen and 3 firemen had to be treated at the scene.

Fleet Home Town News Center Will Now Accept Reservists' Articles

The Navy Fleet Home Town News Center, in a recent change of policy, has begun to handle "Home Town News" articles on reservists performing two week ACDUTRA. The great majority of these news releases are basically "Boatswain's Mate Elvira Smith of _____ did her two week training duty at CG Base New Orleans..." However, these releases serve the important function of keeping the Coast Guard name in countless small newspapers across the country, which otherwise would not publish Coast Guard news items.

In addition, the FHTNC will handle stories about reservists participating in significant operational missions, such as rescues, environmental protection, etc., such as those events which have been reported in the RESERVIST in the past few months.

Commanding officers of reservists performing ACDUTRA, or participating in significant operational missions, should have the individuals complete the standard FHTNC personal information form and forward it to the Fleet Home Town News Center, Building 1-B, Great Lakes, IL, 60088, along with details of operational activities, if applicable. Like all news stories, the quicker the material reaches FHTNC, the better.

The Coast Guard representative at the Center is CWO-3 GRECO, USCG, telephone 312-688-3432. FHTNC forms are available through the CG Supply System.

"Plank Owner" Sails CGC SOUTHWIND On Her Final Voyage

"He helped guide her through the ice on her maiden voyage in 1944, and now, 30 years later, he will escort the lady home."

The action-packed career of the Coast Guard Icebreaker SOUTHWIND will culminate in a June decommissioning at the Coast Guard Yard in Curtis Bay, Maryland, and CWO3 Richard L. FORRY a member of her original crew and a member of CGRU Baltimore IV attached to the Yard, is onboard to insure that its smooth sailing on the long trip home.

CWO3 FORRY and the SOUTHWIND began their careers together when the icebreaker was commissioned at San Pedro, California in July, 1944. CWO3 FORRY was onboard when the "wind" encountered her first military opposition in the Arctic ice that same year, but since that time the two have plotted separate courses.

Following her war service of 1944-45, the SOUTHWIND was released to the Russians as part of the post-World War II Lend Lease Act. She was later returned to the U.S. Navy where she remained for 17 years until the Coast Guard obtained her. She has remained a member of the Coast Guard family ever since.

The Navy has also been a part of CWO3 FORRY's life. A native of Owings Mill, Maryland, he completed one year of Naval Reserve duty in addition to the three years he served in the Navy during World War II, and in 1952 he enlisted in the Coast Guard Reserve. This September he will complete his 25th year of satisfactory military

service.

The SOUTHWIND is presently breaking ice in the Great Lakes out of her home port of Milwaukee, Wisc. When CWO3 FORRY learned that the lady was to be decommissioned, he requested and received orders under the Coast Guard's augmentation policy to report to Milwaukee and report onboard as a crew member on the vessel's final voyage.

CWO3 FORRY, an employee of the Mass Transit Administration in Baltimore for 33 years, considers it "a great honor to make the last sail with the 'wind'" since he made the first. "We go back a long way," CWO3 FORRY admitted, "and I feel I should help the old girl come home to roost."

Coast Guard Reservist

Published monthly in Washington, D.C. by the Commandant, U. S. Coast Guard. Reference to directives, regulations, and orders is for information only and does not by publication herein constitute authority for action. Inquiries about the Coast Guard Reserve should be addressed to the Commandant (G-R-81) Coast Guard Headquarters, Washington, D.C., 20590.

ADMIRAL C. R. BENDER
Commandant, U.S. Coast Guard

ADM J. E. JOHANSEN
Chief, Office of Reserve

CWO H. M. KERN
Editor

All photographs are official Coast Guard material unless otherwise designated.

Members of the Coast Guard Reserve are invited to submit articles of interest to the Editor of RESERVIST for possible publication.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
U. S. COAST GUARD
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20590

OFFICIAL BUSINESS
PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE, \$300

POSTAGE AND FEES PAID
U. S. COAST GUARD
DOT 514

